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CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE BRITISH ARCHIVES
CONCERNING TEXAS, 1837-1846

EDITED BY EPHRAIM DOUGLASS ADAMS

II

ADDINGTON TO ELLIOT¹

Draft. F. O. May 24. 1842.
Capt. Chas. Elliott. R. N.

Sir,

I am directed by the Earl of Aberdeen to acquaint you that his Lordship wishes you to proceed to Texas with as little delay as possible. Your Commission and Instructions are ready to be delivered to you at this Office.

H. U. Addington

ABERDEEN TO ELLIOT²

Draft. F. O. May 27. 1842.
Captain Elliot.
Texas No. 1.

Sir,

With reference to a Letter from this Department dated the 4th of August last, acquainting you that The Queen had been graciously pleased to appoint you to be H. M's Consul General to the Republic of Texas, I enclose to you herewith Her Majesty's Commission to that Effect, and I have to desire you to proceed to your Post with all convenient Speed.

You will lose no time in making yourself conversant with the details of the Consular Service and with the Nature and extent of your Duties as pointed out in the General Instructions of

¹F. O., Texas, Vol. 3. Henry Unwin Addington (1790-1870), permanent under-secretary for foreign affairs. (Stephen, *Dictionary of National Biography*.)

²F. O., Texas, Vol. 3.

H. M's Consuls, of which a Copy is herewith inclosed, and which contain full Instructions for the guidance of your Official conduct on all ordinary occasions.

I also inclose Copies of Circular Dispatches dated 30th Sept. 1833, and 1st Oct. 1836; and I have to call your particular attention to the directions contained in those Dispatches, enjoining a careful preservation of the Archives of the Consulate.

You will be punctual in forwarding to this Dept. the Returns required by the general Instructions, and it will be your Duty to avail yourself of every favourable opportunity for collecting and transmitting to me any further useful or interesting Information, relating to Commerce, Navigation and Agriculture, and to any other Branch of Statistics.

Your Salary has been fixed at £1,200 a year, and will commence ten days before the day of your departure from England; and you are to consider yourself restricted from engaging in Mercantile Pursuits

Aberdeen.

ABERDEEN TO ELLIOT¹

Draft.
Captain Elliot
Texas. No. 2.

F. O. May 27. 1842

Sir,

I think it right to call your attention to that Clause in your commission which empowers you to appoint Vice Consuls at those Ports and Places where the Interests of H. M's Service may appear to require them, and to explain to you that you are not to consider yourself authorized by that clause to appoint Vice Consuls without the previous Sanction of this Department, and I have to refer you upon this Subject to the 27th Paragraph of the General Instructions

Aberdeen.

¹F. O., Texas, Vol. 3.

ABERDEEN TO ELLIOT¹

Dft.

F. O. May 31st. 1842

Captain Elliot. R. N.

Texas. No. 3.

Sir,

In addition to Her Majesty's Commission and to the Consular Instructions with which you are furnished in my Dispatch No. 1, I enclose to you a Letter which I have addressed to the Secretary of the Republic of Texas,² requesting that every facility may be afforded to you by that Government in entering upon and fulfilling the Duties of your Situation.

You will deliver this Letter upon your arrival at the Seat of Government in Texas.

You will make it your duty to collect and transmit to me Information upon all matters of political Interest and importance in the Republic of Texas

Aberdeen.

P. S.

I enclose to you a Copy of my letter to the Secretary of State of the Republic of Texas.

ABERDEEN TO ELLIOT³

Dft.

F. O. May 31st. 1842.

Capt. Elliot. R. N.

Texas. No. 4.

Sir.

I have informed H. M's Ministers at Washington and at Mexico of your appointment as H. M's Consul General in Texas, and I have instructed Mr. Fox and Mr. Pakenham to communicate with you upon all matters which may tend to promote the Interests of H. M's Subjects in those Countries. And I have also to instruct you to keep up a constant and unreserved Communication with Mr. Fox and Mr. Pakenham.

Aberdeen.

¹F. O., Texas, Vol. 3.²See Garrison, *Diplomatic Correspondence of the Republic of Texas*, III, 969, in *Am. Hist. Assoc. Report*, 1908, II.³F. O., Texas, Vol. 3.

KENNEDY TO ABERDEEN¹

Monday, [June 3, 1842] 1/2 past 3. P. M.

My Lord.

This idea has occurred to me since I had the honor of conversing with Your Lordship.

It appears to me that a *Suspension* of the blockade² (should such a Step be deemed expedient) might reasonably be conceded by the Government of Texas until Great Britain has acted upon that Convention in which She agrees to Mediate between Mexico and Texas. By suspending the blockade, time would be given for reconsidering the propriety of following up that Step. Of the disposition of the Government of Texas and the representative in this Country to meet any Suggestion of Her Majesty's Government in the very best spirit, I do not entertain the shadow of a doubt.

I content myself with vaguely indicating the idea for Your Lordship's consideration. Perhaps an early meeting between Mr. Smith³ and Your Lordship will be desirable.

William Kennedy

The Earl of Aberdeen

[Endorsed] June 3. 1842.

KENNEDY TO BIDWELL⁴

Waiting Room. Forgn. Office

Tuesday June 7th. [1842.]

Sir

In accordance with instructions from Lord Aberdeen I beg to request the favor of an interview in reference to my Appointment to the Consulship at Galveston in Texas.

If you cannot command leisure today, will you be so good as to

¹F. O., Texas, Vol. 3.

²On March 26, 1842, President Houston had declared a blockade of Mexican ports on the eastern coast.

³Ashbel Smith, Texan chargé d'affaires in England, appointed in March, 1842.

⁴F. O., Texas, Vol. 3. John Bidwell, a permanent under official of the Foreign Office.

name a time when it will be convenient for you to grant me an interview.

William Kennedy

John Bidwell, Esqr.

KENNEDY TO ABERDEEN¹

Private.

Gregory's Hotel.

Arundel St. Haymarket, June 8th. /42.

My Lord,

In accordance with Your Lordship's suggestion, I had yesterday some conversation with Mr. Bidwell in reference to the Galveston Consulate.

When the Salary was fixed at £400, the Department, it appears from Mr. Bidwell, had no definite grounds to go upon. That gentleman has therefore recommended that I, being acquainted with Texas from personal experience, should submit a statement of facts for Your Lordship's consideration.

A residence in Texas will be expensive on two leading grounds—first, the newness of the Country—second, the existence of Slavery. The former will entail the expense of buying the Site of a house and bringing the house itself either direct from England, or from the United States. The latter must greatly increase the outlay on household servants, British Consuls being, very properly, prohibited from availing themselves of Slave labour.

The outlay on suitable buildings, taking wood as the Material, cannot on the most moderate estimate, be set down at less than £500—Galveston is a sandy island, destitute of building Materials.

Male servants cannot, I think, be had at less rate of wages than £50 a year, female servants about £30.

The style of living at Galveston among the more influential classes, will attain the usual expensive scale of the South, as the planters increase in wealth, and may be expected soon to reach the level of New Orleans, the Consul at which port complains of his inadequate income, although his Salary is £500 and his fees, I have understood an equal amount.

Mr. Bidwell concurs with me in thinking that the privilege of

¹F. O., Texas, Vol. 3.

trading will be of little, if any, practical value to me at Galveston. There are always established British Merchants there, of large capital.—With one of these Mr. Power—(connected with the house of McCalmont Brothers & Co. of London and Liverpool) I was a guest for some days, and I was informed that the allowance to the clerks was £300 a year each

Your Lordship was so kind as to say that you would consider the propriety of raising the Salary to £500 a year. Even with this augmentation, I am quite satisfied that, for the first three or four years, a Consul who should maintain independence and the decency of appearance due to his office must draw upon his personal resources for part of his expenditure. Texas will undoubtedly command an extensive trade, but some time must elapse ere the trade of Galveston can produce any considerable return of Consular fees. And I may remark that it, being the principal port of the Republic, the agent of the British Government resident there will be much more frequently called upon to exercise the rites of hospitality to his Countrymen than the officer charged with diplomatic functions and residing at the seat of Government

I am sorry to trouble Your Lordship with these details, but, as you good naturedly observed, the subject is necessarily of some importance to me. Perhaps, also, my case may be fairly considered to embrace peculiar claims to consideration, as I have devoted both time and money to acquiring a thorough knowledge of Texan affairs, and my services as a Municipal Commissioner in Canada, although perfectly satisfactory to the Government of the day, entailed upon me some pecuniary loss without securing any countervailing advantage.

I am desirous of serving in Texas because, from the information I possess, and the favourable opinion entertained of me by the Government and people of that Country, I am encouraged to hope that I may execute the duties assigned me with benefit to British interests and credit to myself. And I believe I should not greatly err in saying—that Her Majesty's Government, in assigning me a liberal provision for the maintenance of Consular rank, would incur no risk of Parliamentary or public censure

Perfectly and gratefully relying on Your Lordship's favourable

dispositions, I have endeavoured on the matter in question to satisfy your sense of right

William Kennedy

The Earl of Aberdeen.

KENNEDY TO ABERDEEN¹

Gregory's Hotel.

Arundel St. Haymarket June 15th /42

My Lord,

I have received a Communication from a trustworthy source, dated Galveston, Texas, May 17th in which I am informed that General Houston was about to proceed to the South Western frontier of the Republic, to take the Command of the Army, and that all was "in readiness for the invasion of Mexico". My correspondent—an Englishman—had, he intimates, forwarded to me a packet containing "much important information". This packet has not yet reached me.

The most strenuous endeavours have been made by the United States newspapers—more especially those in the interest of Mr. Clay—to create and fix the impression that Mexico was secretly prompted by England in her persevering hostility to Texas. The party favourable to "Annexation" use every available means to stimulate Texas into acts of aggression, under the anticipation that, borne down by the charges of war, she will have no alternative but to incorporate herself with the Northern Federation. No falsehood is too rampant to serve the purpose of the hour.

The non-completion² of the Treaties between Great Britain and Texas gives a colour to these representations, and strips the act of part of its grace as regards the Country claiming recognition and alliance. It would be very unfortunate if, after adjusting differences of the North Eastern frontier of the United States,³ new sources of difficulty should be opened in the South West.

William Kennedy.

The Earl of Aberdeen.

¹F. O., Texas, Vol. 3.

²Ratifications of the three treaties were finally exchanged on June 28, 1842.

³This refers to the Webster-Ashburton negotiation then in progress,

POWER TO PEEL¹

(Duplicate)

Galveston, Texas. 20 June 1842

Sir Robert Peel etc.

Sir,

Although I have not the honor of personally being known to you, I presume from my family connections at Tamworth and in Warwickshire with whom you are acquainted to address you.

In 1840 I came out to this Country to form a Commercial house, and establish a trade between this Country and England and up to the present time have succeeded to my utmost wishes, finding the exports from hence very much more on the increase than I had at first anticipated. I have gone into large operations here and viewing with some alarm the position I hold in this Country at the present moment on the eve of a war in all probability with Mexico, and this too without a British Agent or Consul to protect my, and other subjects property, I am induced to hope that my letter may through you, in some way find itself in the hands of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, with the hope that some one may be sent out, to protect us from the certain destruction of our property should we be left entirely to the Mercy of the Mexicans.

The Commercial relations with Texas are now beginning to develope themselves and in proof of it, I may mention that in Feby. 1840 I could hardly load one of my Vessels here with Cotton whereas in 41 and 42 I have sent home some 14000 Bales.

The growth of this article as well as emigration from the Southern parts of United States is so much on the increase that I confidently state that in 10 years we shall export as much Cotton as Alabama now does, which is now from 4 to 500,000 Bales.

In the present state of matters politically I would suggest that it would tend much to British Interests could some arrangement be made to adjust if possible the difficulties between this Country and Mexico, and so raise up a Country which will afford our

which resulted in the signing on August 9, 1842, of the Treaty of Washington. It was generally understood that Aberdeen hoped by this negotiation to remove all causes of difference with the United States.

¹F. O., Texas, Vol. 5. See reference to Mr. Power in Kennedy's letter to Aberdeen, June 8, 1842.

British Manufactures a considerable market for her products as well as the raw material without being so dependent on the United States; whereas if something is not done I much fear from the financial state of matters here, that Texas may be lost to British enterprize and at last become annexed to the United States: Strong efforts to that end are even now making and the States to the South are more than desirous for this step, as well as the greater portion of the people here, from the conviction that with the distress we are lav[b]ouring under, that resources cannot be had to cope with energy against Mexico. Had we those means there can be no doubt of the result, but without them an effectual defence cannot be prolonged.

I do not go into particulars relative to the politics of this Country, not wishing to encroach too much upon your time, but beg to reitereate the solicitous wish of myself and that of the British subjects resident in this Country that some Consul come among us, to protect us and otherwise give such views to the Govt. as may induce them to give a more decided tone to the interests of the Republic as well as foster a rising Country—that by judicious management may be made a barrier to the encroachments of the United States

Apologizing for the liberty I have taken I am

Charles Power.

Galveston 7th July 1842.

I beg to enclose you a letter which has been sent by me to Mr. de Saligny the French Minister here in consequence of an application he made to me.

If it will afford H. M. Govt. at home any benefit I shall be happy to communicate with them from time to time upon any head on which they may desire information about this new Country. I am, Sir,

Charles Power

Rt. Honble. Sir Robert Peel, Bart.

Treasury. London.

[Endorsed] No. 1. In Sir R. Peel's Note of Aug. 15, 1842.

POWER TO SALIGNY¹

[Enclosure.]

Galveston 20th June 1842.

Monsieur Le Comte de Saligny.

You have requested that I would give you so far as I could any views about the Commerce of this Country as well as its position embarrassed as it now is, and as you are about going to Europe I do so in the hope that thro' your influence you may be able in a proper channel to represent the state of Texas as to its present resources, what it is destined some day to be, if aid can be afforded her now as an exporting as well as consuming Country of the Manufactures of both France and England.

In allusion to the exports even now in their infancy I would simply refer you back to my own commencement, here in 1840 and contrast the present increase in the growth of Cotton in the two Years, if such increase takes place as I will endeavour to shew you by a small table I have prepared, pending the uncertainty of our independence, what must be the result of 10 Years of peace and acknowledgment of that position which is so much to be desired by us here as Aliens, as well as by the Govts. of France and England could the matter be shewn to them in a proper light, by some party competent and on whose veracity could be relied upon and those Govts. take upon themselves the adjustment of the difficulty now existing with Mexico.

Another matter too cannot have escaped your notice and anxiety as regards the future prospects of this Country should the conflict with Mexico be prolonged, which is the certain annexation of Texas by the United States— it is even now desired by the Majority both of that and this Country and should by every scheme possible be thwarted; an annexation would completely put a stop to the introduction of European goods except in the finer fabrics and would in time lead on to a constant state of quarrel on the frontier, and ultimately to the March of the Anglo-Saxon race to the conquest of the South American Continent.

You know enough of the composition of the people to know and feel that the European Govts. ought not to allow the race to travel

¹F. O., Texas, Vol. 5.

beyond its present limit, for travel they will with their energy and the sooner some arrangement of Mediation for this Country, with a guarantee of those powers United States, France, and England, in mediating a peace with Mexico the better, by this means the onward march may be arrested some 50 or 60 years and a good and lucrative trade carried on by them in the introduction of their manufactures: Every day is bringing the U. States in competition with us in manufactures of every description, and latterly the improvement is astonishing. The possession then of this Market, would afford them an increased stimulus to the export of their products and drive us completely out of Market. Too much attention cannot be given to this point unless our Govt. are really blind to their own interests and they must be made to see if possible that it is necessary to adopt some course which will at least for some time give us an outlet for our manufactures.

Let the United States on[ce] possess this Country and where is She to stop, 10 years will prove it to us in Europe, whereas 10 years hence by a determination that Mexico should recognize that [then?] you have a Country exporting as much Cotton as Alabama now does or nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ the amount of American cottons which are consumed in England.

There never was so fine an opportunity for Govts. at home shewing their philanthropy and nurturing this new Country the crisis which every one is suffering from in the United States, high prices of lands comparative uncertainty of Crops when compared to this as well as present low prices, will all conspire to force emigration to Texas, so soon as personal property can be guaranteed

It must be remembered that North Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee and Carolina are all Cotton Countrys, but produce on an average about 3 Bales to the hand, this quantity when prices were high renumerated the growers, but at the present rates they cannot make both ends meet, here you will find the averages about 7 Bales. I have known 10 but seven will be within the mark, the staple a penny per lb. better and no more expense to convey to market when once the trade is open, but a decidedly less capital required to bring the article to maturity. Here lands are worth from one dollar to five per acre, there from twenty to forty, and

at the same time there is no one thing that is produced there, that we cannot do here.

I need not call your attention to the market, situated as Texas is for the supply of goods for both Mexico and the U. States, the high tariff in both these countries will always be a temptation to contraband introduction, and could a judicious system be organized and a peace established, here a free entry on such goods might be made and a lucrative and heavy trade carried on. What is to prevent the Trader from taking goods to Red River and thence scattering them over the Western States, the expences of transport when once the matter was organized would not be more than 3% or 4% on the value of goods and even now the distance with a loaded Waggon can be performed in 12 days.

I will instance the article of Cloth which pay now a duty in the States of from 32% to 40% not bulky for its value, in which alone a considerable trade could be carried on, and must to any one having the least fore sight be sufficiently obvious.—As to Mexico the matter is so notorious and tariff so high as admit on every article an infringement

The great supply of goods consumed at present in Texas is from the United States tho' even the major part of these are French and English which have paid duty in the States, the coarser fabrics being produced cheaper there. The amount altogether I estimate at about 3 Millions of dollars since 1840 up to this time say 2 Years¹

From England and France direct not more than 100,000 ff.

You must be aware that with Red River Countries [Counties] a great part of the Cottons go to New Orleans and are not bonded and considered Texas Cotton, when they are so strictly speaking, but are entered as Louisiana; in the same way goods are introduced and no benefit accrues in any way to the Govt. here and against the exports above mentioned I cannot take these exports to shew how the balance of trade exists—because no benefit accrues to this Country from the duties

I should nevertheless think that taking all the exports of Texas Cotton and Hides, that She only meets the imports about two-

¹The total imports by Texas for the year ending September 1, 1840, were \$1,378,568.98. (Gouge, *Fiscal History of Texas*, 128.)

fifths at most leaving a heavy balance against her which will be reduced in 5 years in a similar way to a calculation of compound interest, for every new Country will have on first Settlement a strong current against her of this sort but which is very much reduced yearly.

I have considered that it will perhaps be as well to give You some idea of the Cotton growing region of this Country including Brazoria, Washington, Ward¹ and Matagorda Counties as well as the lands upon Caney and Bernard. The quality of all these lands are superior to any that are known in the U. States and consist of Alluvial black Moulds, except on Caney and the upper part of Ward and Matagorda which are mulatto of a very strong and rich nature and more suitable to Cotton in my opinion from their not suffering so much from the drought which almost always happens in the lower Country, as well as producing a silky and long staple of cotton and with care and the same attention to cleaning would obtain the highest market rates in either Europe or New Orleans, indeed by a reference to the quality of the staple grown in the Western part of Texas it will be seen that Cottons here are decidedly superior to the general run of American Cottons and are equal to them except the Red River and Louisiana.

The value of these lands vary from 3 to 5 dollars the acre in the present hard times, but sales have been made at much higher and lower prices, the quantity grown to the hand varies according to the industry of the Planter, as an average each Slave on a plantation will cultivate 10 or 12 Acres, and the produce is about 1500 to 2000 lbs. in Cotton seed or about 300 to 400 lbs. of Gin'd Cotton pr. acre.

The Brazos has the preference among Planters from the Stream being navigable for about 60 miles, beyond this except in wet seasons when the River rises 20 or 30 feet, no certain communication can be had in consequence of the Shoals, the first that you meet with is between Bolivar and Richmond across which I can 10 months in the year wade over. You have heard I have

¹The judicial county of Ward was created from Matagorda and Colorado counties by act of January 19, 1841. This act was later held unconstitutional. Its territory was entirely distinct from that of the present county of Ward.—EDITORS OF THE QUARTERLY.

no doubt that this river is navigable to Washington. I have seen for Myself and without fear of contradiction say that up to Bolivar and no farther can a boat go except under the influence of the rise I before spoke of. The Bernard in the same way is navigable about 30 miles and dwindles away in 50 miles to a miserable swamp.

The Colorado in the same way presents many obstacles the first and greatest is the Raft which obstructs the mouth for about 2 miles but will ere long be removed, a Keel Boat now ascends to near Bastrop and the water varies from 10 feet to 14 inches

Every Stream in Texas unfortunately wants water to render them navigable. I believe that the Trinity that emptys into Galveston Bay will one day become the best river from the fact not generally known that that River heads within 5 miles of Red River which is about 10 feet higher than the Trinity and by cutting a Canal of about 15 Miles you could have a constant volumn of water that would render that stream navigable as well as throw the whole trade of Fannin, Bowie, Harrison and Red River Counties in this Bay, and which now goes to New Orleans thro' Natchitoches, of these upper counties I myself have no practical knowledge, what little I have learned is from Judge Mills who I think may be relied upon as being disinterested and who at the same time has been a resident in that Section of the Country for some time

They are all in the same parallel of latitude and their productions alike—Cotton, Corn, Wheat, Rye and Flax grow well. Settlers from Illinois report that for wheat and Flax they desire no better land and that the average of the former crop is about 25 Bushels to the acre a good average I should consider.

The Red River is navigable 1600 miles from the Mississippi to the junction of the Kiamiska and one hundred and fifty miles by land above the point where the boundary lies [line?] between the U. States and Texas strikes the River.

The quality of the lands upon this River are similar to those on the Mississippi and Brazos and are alluvial. The Prairie black rich mould and capable of producing almost any production. All the upper Country is much better wooded than on the Gulf side of the Republic and among its products is a wood called Bowdark or Bois d'Arc which is reported to have the same qualities of the

Campeachy Fustic, as well as being capable of hedging in a similar manner to the Black Thorn of our own Country.

The crop of Cotton this year may be calculated as follows and may be relied upon.

1841 and 42.

The Counties Harrison 2000, Fannin 700, Bowie 4000, Red River 3000, Lamar 2000—in all.....	11,700
Brazoria and Washington—Bernard.....	7,500
Matagorda, Ward, and Caney.....	3,000
Sabine—St. Augustine and Nacogdoches.....	5,500
Montgomery—Fort Bend—Richmond.....	7,000
Trinity, Harris, Houston, Chocolate.....	3,000
	<hr/>
	37,700

Each Bag will average 450 lbs.

In 1840 and 41

Red River Counties.....	5,000
Nacogdoches, St. Augustine etc.....	2,500
Brazoria, Washington.....	5,400
Matagorda and Ward.....	1,300
Trinity	500
Sabine	1,000
	<hr/>
	19,200 ¹

1839 and 40.

The returns of the Custom House shew about 5,600 Bales but I believe that the amount was greater and will be about 10,000 Bales.

I calculated from what I have seen and my knowledge of the Country together with the increased planting and acquisition of forces that the year of 1842 will yeild a crop of about 50% over the returns of last year or about 50, or 60,000 Bags.—I shall now conclude and beg to reiterate that if at any time I can give you

¹The addition is incorrect; the correct total is 15,700.

any information that will be of use to you or your Govt. I shall be most happy.—And Believe me¹

[Endorsed.] Copy of a letter addressed to Monsieur de Saligny. French Chargé d'Affaires. No. 2. In Sir R. Peel's Note of Aug 15. 1842.

ADDINGTON TO ELLIOT²

Draft.

F. O. June 28. 1842.

Capt. Elliot.

Texas. Consular No. 6.

Sir,

I am directed by the Earl of Aberdeen to acquaint you that in consequence of the Diplomatick Character with which you have been invested by His Lordship's Despatch Nos. 1—of this day's date, it will be expedient that you should separate your Diplomatick from your Consular Despatches, by affixing a distinct set of Numbers to each, and you will affix to your Despatches on Consular Subjects the word "*Consular*" in the same manner as that word is prefixed to the number of this Despatch.³

You will understand that the only Despatches which should be marked and numbered in your Consular Series, should be such as relate solely to the subjects specially treated of in the General Consular Instructions

H. U. Addington

ABERDEEN TO ELLIOT⁴

Captn. Elliot.

F. O. 1 July 1842.

No. 3.⁵

Sir,

The ratifications of the three Treaties concluded in Novr. 1840 between Great Britain and the Republick of Texas, having been

¹The letter is unsigned.

²F. O., Texas, Vol. 3.

³Elliot's consular despatches were not numerous, and were for the most part merely formal reports of his presence at his post. These have been omitted, and only those bearing on his diplomatic activities and personal relations are here printed.

⁴F. O., Texas, Vol. 4.

⁵Despatches Nos. 1 and 2, Aberdeen to Elliot, July 1, 1842, are omitted; their substance is given in despatches Nos. 1 and 2, Elliot to Aberdeen, September 4, 1842, printed below.

exchanged on the 28th Ult. with the Texian Chargé d'Affaires accredited to this Government, you will take upon yourself the character and duties of H. M. Chargé d'Affaires to the Govt. of Texas, agreeably to the assurance which was prospectively given you to that effect by Viset: Palmerston in his dispatch dated the 4th of August last.

A brief instruction for the general guidance of your conduct in your new capacity may suffice in the present position of our relations with the Republick of Texas.

Those relations will necessarily, in the first instance, be namely, commercial; and, as such, they will come under your consideration in your capacity of Consul General, for the performance of the duties of which office you have already been sufficiently instructed.

With reference to our political relations I shall wish that you should, at first, assume the attitude, rather of an observer than of an actor, of a passive, but not inattentive spectator rather than of an energetic agent or counsellor.

You will watch closely all the proceedings of the Texian Govt., not with any hostile view, but simply with the object of putting Your own Govt. in possession of such facts and circumstances as may enable them to form a just estimate of the power and character of the Texian Govt. and Nation, and to judge thereby of the value of the new relations which H. M. has formed with that Republick

It is essential that we should be made well acquainted with the resources, military, naval, financial, and commercial, of Texas; with the feelings of her Govt. and her people as represented in the legislative chambers, both with respect to Great Britain, and also with respect to the U. States. And in judging and reporting on these matters I can not too strongly recommend to you to use your best endeavours to do so with the strictest impartiality, and not to allow any preconceived notions to bias your judgment in coming to a conclusion on these points

The exact truth without any extraneous colouring, is what H. M. Govt. desire in their present very imperfect knowledge of the state of affairs in Texas; and to you they must necessarily look for that information which is to guide their own judgment in those matters.

You will of course express to the rulers of Texas the desire of H. M. Govt. to cultivate the best understanding with them, and especially to do every thing in their power to bring about an amicable and early settlement of their differences with Mexico. But you will most carefully abstain from using any language which may, in the remotest manner, lead to a hope that we may ever be disposed to take any part in their contest with Mexico.

We should be well inclined, in conformity with our Treaty with Texas, to mediate between the two Govts., but the part which it is our first duty to take, with reference to either, is that of the strictest neutrality.

In conclusion, I wish that all representations which you may at any time have to make to the Texian Authorities, either orally or in writing, should be conveyed in such a tone and language as it becomes one independent Govt. to use towards another independent Govt., without reference to the greater strength and more ancient reputation of the one or the lesser power and antiquity of the other.

Ab[erdee]n.

ABERDEEN TO ELLIOT¹

Draft.
Captain Elliot
No. 4.

Foreign Office.
July 1st. 1842.

Sir,

I inclose to you a Copy of a Protocol of a Conference² which I, as Plenipotentiary for Great Britain, and Mr. Ashbel Smith, as Plenipotentiary for the Republic of Texas held at the Foreign Office on the 28th ultimo recording the exchange of the Ratifications of the three undermentioned Treaties between Her Majesty and the Republic of Texas.

1. A Treaty of Commerce and Navigation, signed at London on the 13th of Novr. 1840.

2dly A Convention containing certain arrangements relative to Publick debt, signed at London on the 14th of Novr. 1840;

¹F. O., Texas, Vol. 4. The letter is unsigned.

²Held at the foreign office, June 28, 1842. See Garrison, *Diplomatic Correspondence of the Republic of Texas*, III, 996, in *Am. Hist. Assoc. Report*, 1908, II.

and 3dly, a Treaty for the suppression of African Slave Trade, signed at London on the 16th of Novr. 1840.

I also inclose to you Six Copies of each of the above mentioned Treaties signed on the 13th and 14th of Novr. 1840.—And also Copies of Protocols of the Conferences held at this office on the 19th of May and 14th of December 1841¹ between the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain and of Texas, extending the time for the Exchange of the Ratifications of the Treaties between the Two Countries.

ABERDEEN TO ELLIOT²

Draft.
Captain Elliot.
No. 5. Confidential.

Foreign Office.
July 1. 1842.

Sir,

I inclose to you confidentially for Your information, a Copy of a dispatch which I have addressed to Her M's Minister in Mexico,³ relative to the two Treaties between Great Britain and Texas signed on the 13th and 14th of November, 1840

ABERDEEN TO ELLIOT⁴

Draft.
Captain Elliot.
No. 7.⁵

Foreign Office.
July 1. 1842.

Sir,

Having received from more than one quarter, and especially from H. M. Consul at Vera Cruz, in a despatch dated the 30th of April and 10th of May, information that, as far as Vera Cruz at least is concerned, the Blockade of the Eastern Coast of Mexico

¹Both in *British and Foreign State Papers*, XXX, 1127-1128.

²F. O., Texas, Vol. 4. The letter is unsigned.

³Aberdeen to Pakenham, July 1, 1842. F. O., Mexico, 152. Aberdeen instructed Pakenham to urge upon Mexico a recognition of Texan independence, and a discontinuance of all attempts at reconquest. For extracts and substance, see Adams, *British Interests and Activities in Texas*, 101-102.

⁴F. O., Texas, Vol. 4.

⁵Despatch No. 6, Aberdeen to Elliot, July 1, 1842, is omitted here; it transmitted copy of despatch No. 28, Aberdeen to Pakenham, July 1, 1842, in regard to Texan blockade of Mexican ports.

proclaimed by the Govt. of Texas on the 26th of March, had not been, up to that date, practically enforced. I have thought it my duty to address a Letter, of which a Copy is herewith enclosed,¹ to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, in which I have requested that the Commander in Chief of H. M. Naval forces in the West Indies may be instructed to dispatch forthwith to the Coast declared under Blockade, a sufficient force for the protection of British Trade in that quarter; and also to report upon the efficiency, or otherwise of the Blockade so declared

At the same time I have also thought it my duty to represent verbally to the Texian Chargé d'Affaires in this Country the impolicy on the part of a Govt. so recently established, and as yet so scantily recognized, as that of Texas, of resorting to a measure, which ought always to be avoided, except in cases of extreme urgency, and is always attended with great danger and odium to the Blockading Power, and liable to excite feelings of disgust and hostility in all other Powers;—the great Commercial Powers especially

I have to instruct you, under the supposition that the Blockade is an actual and effective one, and properly supported by an adequate Blockading force, as required by the Law of Nations, to make a temperate but energetic representation in the same sense directly to the Govt. of Texas, and to use your best endeavours to induce that Govt. to raise the Blockade without loss of time; representing to them the ill will which a continuance of it will excite in foreign Nations, and especially amongst the Merchants of the higher Commercial Powers, whose friendship it must be so greatly the interest of the Texian Govt. to conciliate in the infancy of their Countrey's independence.

You may also add that the Blockade of the Mexican Ports, which, in the opinion of H. M. Govt. was, from the first injudicious has, since the final completion of the Treaties between Great Britain and Texas, become particularly inopportune, since it is now the duty of the British Govt. conformably to the provisions of one of those Treaties, to endeavour once more to mediate a Peace between the two Countries, with a view to the recognition of Texas by Mexico.

¹Not found.

It is scarcely to be supposed that such Mediation can be undertaken with any rational hope of success at a moment when an obstruction is opposed by Texas to the Commerce of Mexico with other Countries; which, under any circumstances, could contribute but little in proportion to its vexatious character, to the success of the Contest at present raging between the two Republicks.

Should you have good reason to know that the Blockade of the Mexican Ports is not effective, or that it is enforced, not by Vessels bonâ fide Texian, but by Ships belonging to foreign States or Adventurers, it will then become your duty to protest formally against it, and to declare to the Govt. of Texas explicitly, but in temperate language, that the British Govt. will neither acknowledge, nor observe, it.¹

You will, under any circumstances, employ all the means within Your reach, for elucidating the important point above adverted to, namely, whether supposing the Blockade to be real, the Blockading Vessels are Texian, or foreign. It is obvious that, considering the proximity of the United States, and the known bias of the people of that Country in favour of Texas and Texian independence, there must always be a great probability that those persons will omit no opportunity of taking part with the Texians either by land or Sea, especially when so fair a chance of gain offers, as the sharing in the Blockade of the Mexican Ports would hold out to them.

To this point You will therefore direct Your particular attention, and report accurately to H. M. Govt. all the authentic information which You may be able to collect upon it. I am,

Aberdeen.

¹The blockade was not effective, but its promulgation had stirred a warm protest by British merchants, who in May and June, 1842, addressed numerous letters to the foreign office. (F. O., Mexico, 158 and 159. Domestic Various.) Houston revoked the blockade on September 12, 1842. (Garrison, *Diplomatic Correspondence of the Republic of Texas*, III, 1014, in *Am. Hist. Assoc. Report*, 1908, II.)

ABERDEEN TO ELLIOT¹

Draft.

F. O. July 1st. 1842.

Capt. Elliot.

H. M. Chargé d'Affaires

Texas. No. 8.

Sir.

In the Year 1837, H. M. Govt. received accounts of certain outrages which had been committed upon two British Merchant Vessels, named the "Eliza Russell" and the "Little Penn," by Vessels in the Service of the Texian Authorities, and several successive Communications were consequently made by my Predecessor to Genl. Henderson, an Agent from Texas then in this Country, with a view to obtain redress for these Outrages by amicable means.²

The result of these preliminary Communications was an assurance on the part of Genl. Henderson, first with respect to the Eliza Russell, that the Texian Authorities were ready to pay the whole of the Claim brought forward by H. M. Govt. on behalf of the Owner of that Vessel; and secondly, with respect to the case of the "Little Penn" upon which there seemed to be some demur, that they were ready to investigate that Case, and in the event of the Claim proving well founded, that they would not hesitate to make full compensation to the Owners.

The stay of Genl. Henderson in England, however, having been only temporary, and H. M. Govt. having then no Agent in Texas, the further prosecution of these Claims was entrusted to Mr. Pakenham, H. M. Minister in Mexico, who was at that time, in Communication upon other Matters with Genl. Hamilton an Agent

¹F. O., Texas, Vol. 4.

²This matter occupies much space in the correspondence between Aberdeen and Elliot. Since Elliot nearly always merely carried out Aberdeen's instructions by transmitting formal official communications to the Texan government, and since these are included in Garrison, *Diplomatic Correspondence of the Republic of Texas*, no further letters treating of the *Eliza Russell* and *Little Penn* cases will be printed here, unless they contain references to other matters. For a succinct account of the cases see Worley, "The Diplomatic Relations of England and the Republic of Texas," in *THE QUARTERLY*, IX, 5-8.

from Texas then in Mexico;¹ and Statements of the Claims, supported by the necessary proofs, were forwarded to Mr. Pakenham for Communication to Genl. Hamilton and through him to his Govt. Genl. Hamilton having been succeeded in Mexico by Mr. Trent, [Treat]² another Texian Agent, Mr. Pakenham made his representations to the last mentioned Gentleman from whom assurances were received similar to those which had been given by Genl. Henderson, but eventually it was deemed expedient to defer the final prosecutions of these Claims until H. M. Govt. should have appointed an Agent to reside in Texas, who would then make a direct application to the Texian Govt. for redress.

That Step having now been taken, I accordingly transmit to You herewith for your information and guidance, Copies of the Correspondence, as marked in the Margin, which has passed between this Office and Mr. Pakenham upon this subject,³ together with Copies of the Correspondence and other Papers therein referred to, with the exception of the Inclosures in Lord Palmerston's Despatch No. 10 of the 15th of February 1840.

These Inclosures comprise authenticated Documents and other Papers relating to the Claims in question; and Mr. Pakenham has been instructed to transmit them to You at Austin by the earliest opportunity.

¹Hamilton was not in Mexico, but corresponded with Pakenham from New Orleans. (Adams, *British Interests and Activities in Texas*, 36-40.)

²James Treat, confidential agent of Texas in Mexico, 1839-40. Died at sea while returning to Texas, November 30, 1840. Very little information has been found regarding Treat, though he played an important, though brief, rôle in Texan diplomacy. (Garrison, *Diplomatic Correspondence of the Republic of Texas*, II, 451, footnote; in *Am. Hist. Assoc. Report*, 1908, II.) There is a tombstone in Wethersfield, Connecticut, erected to the memory of "James Treat, died November 30, 1840. Buried in Galveston, Texas." (J. Harvey Treat, *Genealogy of the Treat Family*, 505.) The author of this work knew only that Treat was a "Minister to Mexico," and could find no record of his previous history.

³The copies listed in the margin, all of which bore upon the "Eliza Russell" and "Little Penn" claims, were the following: (1) Palmerston to Pakenham, February 15, 1840, No. 10, with list of enclosures (F. O., Mexico, 133); (2) Pakenham to Palmerston, April 30, 1840, No. 43, with two enclosures (F. O., Mexico, 135); (3) same to same, August 22, 1840, No. 77, with one enclosure (F. O., Mexico, 137); (4) Palmerston to Hamilton, November 28, 1840 (F. O., Texas, *Domestic*, 1); (5) Aberdeen to Pakenham, June 1, 1842, No. 18 (F. O., Mexico, 152). The last letter notifies Pakenham that henceforth Elliot will assume the duty of pressing these claims on Texas.

When you receive these Documents, you will be in possession of all that has passed on the Subject of these Claims; And I have to instruct You to lose no time in pressing them in the strongest manner upon the serious attention of the Texian Govt. as Claims which H. Mjty. fully expect and require should be adjusted without further delay.

In conclusion I have to call your attention to the fact, that great pains have been taken to examine into the Evidence adduced by the parties interested, with respect to the amount of their Claims, and that those Claims have, through the interposition of H. M. Govt. been reduced to the lowest Sum to which the Parties appear in justice to be entitled.

Ab[erdee]n.

KENNEDY TO ABERDEEN¹

Gregory's Hotel, Arundel St.
Haymarket, July 2d. 1842.

My Lord,

According to the various accounts which have recently arrived from the United States, it would appear that the greater part of the Texan Navy had (as I have already intimated) proceeded to New Orleans and Mobile, for the purpose of refitting and obtaining Stores. There seems no reason to doubt that it was the intention of the Government of Texas to reinforce the blockade

The Texan Congress had been summoned to meet at the close of last Month, and the President was, in the meantime, arranging the Army for the projected invasion of Mexico. The force called to the field may be estimated at 5,000 Men, which, in case of actual hostilities, would be largely increased by Volunteers from the United States.

The Count de Breteuil, French Secretary of Legation at Mexico, is among the list of passengers brought by the Great Western. This is the second import of French diplomacy from Mexico within a short period of time.

In acknowledging the honor of Your Lordship's Note of the 27th ult, I feel a degree of self-reproach lest I should have been much too inconsiderate in pressing for a reply. Per-

¹F. O., Texas, Vol. 3.

haps a palliatory plea for undue susceptibility might be found in the fact that my position with relation to Your Lordship has been that of an applicant for office

Permit me to explain that the political aim of the contemplated work was to be the establishment of peace between Texas and Mexico. I may add that, were I in the employment of Government, I would be strongly indisposed to venture into print without the knowledge and sanction of the head of the department [to] which I was attached.

The name of Tho. L. M. Rate,¹ of the firm of Rickards Little & Co 15 Bishopsgate St. Within, has been transmitted by Mr. Ashbel Smith to his Government, to be substituted for mine in the Commission of Consul General for Texas in Great Britain

William Kennedy.

The Earl of Aberdeen.

KENNEDY TO BIDWELL²

[July 6, 1842.]

Mr. Kennedy presents his compliments to Mr. Bidwell, and begs to submit the following facts, in reference to the appointment of a Consul, or a Vice Consul, at Galveston—leaving out of view Mr. Kennedy's own impression that the Government intended to grant him *Consular* rank.

1. France and the United States (each represented by a *Chargé d'Affaires*) have their respective Consuls at Galveston, who will by Virtue of their rank necessarily exercise greater weight than a British Vice-Consul. The inconvenience of this will suggest itself to Mr. Bidwell's experience

2. The Seat of Government in Texas is on the Indian frontier, distant from the more populous Settlements, and above two hundred Miles from Galveston, with which it is unconnected by any regular and speedy means of conveyance. For all commercial purposes requiring despatch and arising out of Maritime intercourse, with the Coast, the services of a Consul General stationed

¹Lachlan McIntosh Rate. He was recommended to Ashbel Smith by Kennedy on June 30, 1842. (Garrison, *Diplomatic Correspondence of the Republic of Texas*, III, 991, in *Am. Hist. Assoc. Report*, 1908, II.)

²F. O., Texas, Vol. 3.

at Austin would be altogether useless. Yet the representatives of France and the United States have their official residence at Austin, and the representative of Great Britain cannot reside elsewhere without material detriment to the efficient exercise of his diplomatic functions. The unsettled state of affairs in Texas would seem peculiarly to demand the constant attention of the British Consul General at the Seat of Government.

3. There are several ports on the Coast of Texas which might properly fall under the supervision of a British Consul at Galveston through his Agents. I may enumerate Sabine, at the Mouth of the river of that name, Velasco, on the Brazos, Matagorda and the adjoining places, Copano and its neighbourhood, and Corpus Christi. Matagorda is already the seat of a considerable and growing Commerce, and there is every reason to anticipate that a very few Years will bring an important increase to the trade of all. The United States have Vice-Consuls at Velasco and Matagorda, and, I believe, at Sabine

For the several reasons herein adduced—namely—The practice of France and the United States—the remoteness of the Consul General's Official residence from the principal Seaports, and the extent of district requiring Consular supervision, together with the prospect of an early enlargement of our commercial operations in Texas. Mr. Kennedy respectfully submits (apart from the consideration of his personal claims or impressions) that an agent of the British Government holding *Consular* rank should be stationed at Galveston

Gregory's Hotel Arundel St. Haymarket.

July 6th. 1842.

KENNEDY TO ABERDEEN¹

Gregory's Hotel.
Arundel St. Haymarket
July 7th. 1842.

My Lord,

I yesterday received private letters from Galveston in Texas which confirms generally the information I have communicated

¹F. O., Texas, Vol. 3.

to Your Lordship respecting the blockade and the projected invasion of Mexico. The Texan Commodore has sailed to New Orleans and Mobile, for the purpose of refitting, leaving a single brig of war (the Wharton) to watch the Mexican Coast.

From the posture of affairs at the date of my letters, I should think that the invading army of Texas would be on its March towards the Mexican frontier about the first of next Month. There seems to be no want of Men or Military means. The avowed object of the war is to extort from Mexico the recognition of Texan independence, and, with it, permanent peace.

From an earnest desire to avoid troubling Your Lordship with renewed application on the subject of my appointment, I called yesterday on Mr. Bidwell, to ascertain what steps had been taken in reference to the Galveston Consulate.

Contrary to my understanding of Your Lordship's kind and complimentary offer of the 6th Ult. it was intimated by Mr. Bidwell that my name had been sent into him for the Subordinate rank of Vice Consul at Galveston. The inexpediency of such an appointment, in a business point of view, I have endeavoured to demonstrate in a Note to Mr. Bidwell. Its want of accordance with the offer of which I signified my acceptance, and for which I declined the Consul Generalship of Texas in this Country, I beg respectfully to indicate to Your Lordship, from whom the instructions necessary for rectifying the matter are required to proceed.

A probable absence of some years in a foreign Country demands not a few preparatory arrangements, more especially if that Country should be, like Texas, recently settled. Among other things, I find that the transport of a dwelling house from England will be requisite. The order for this, which it will take some time to execute, only awaits the issue of my Commission.

William Kennedy.

The Earl of Aberdeen

KENNEDY TO BIDWELL¹

[July 14, 1842.]

Mr. Kennedy presents his Compliments to Mr. Bidwell, and in the hope that he is not unduly importunate, begs to remind him of

¹F. O., Texas, Vol. 3.

his obliging promise to send Mr. K. a letter signifying his appointment to the Consulate at Galveston—early in the present week. In the anticipation of being favoured with this letter, he had made arrangements for leaving London to join his family and recruit his health on the Coast.

Gregory's Hotel. Arundel St., Haymarket.

July 14th. 1842.

ABERDEEN TO ELLIOT¹

Draft.

F. O July 15. 1842

Captain Elliot.

No. 9.

Sir,

In my despatch No. 7, of the 1st. inst. I instructed you to press upon the Govt. of Texas the great impolicy on their part of continuing the Blockade of the Coast of Mexico; and to represent to them the earnest desire and recommendation of H. M. Govt. that they should not persevere in such an exercise of belligerent rights.

You will still endeavour to attain that object by every means in your power. But if, contrary to the just expectation of H. M. Govt. the Texian Govt. should determine to maintain the Blockade, I have to instruct you to apply to them to give directions to the Officers commanding the Blockading Vessels not to interfere with the Vessels of the Royal Mail Steam Company employed by H. M. Govt., but to suffer those Vessels to continue to perform unmolested the Packet Service on the Mexican Coast, in the same manner as the British Packets were allowed to perform the same service during the French Blockade on that Coast.² And if the Texian Govt. acquiesce in this demand, as that of Her Majesty feel satisfied they will, you will communicate that fact to H. M. Minister in Mexico, as well as to the Commander of H. M. Naval forces in the West Indies, and to the Agents of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company at Jamaica and the Havannah.

¹F. O., Texas, Vol. 4. The letter is unsigned.

²In 1838 France blockaded Mexican ports to enforce adjustment of French Claims. (H. H. Bancroft, *History of Mexico*, V, ch. VIII.)

ABERDEEN TO ELLIOT¹

Draft.
Captain Elliot
No. 10.

Foreign Office
July 16. 1842.

Sir.

I enclose herewith, for your Information, Copies of a Correspondence which has recently taken place between this Department, and the Chargé d'Affaires of Texas, and also between this Department and the Admiralty,² on the subject of two Steam Vessels, the "Montezuma", and "Guadalupe", which have been fitted out in the Ports of Great Britain by Messrs. Lizardi and Co. for the service of the Mexican Government; against the fitting out, and supposed arming and officering of which Vessels the Texian Chargé d'Affaires protested.³

A prior Correspondence had already taken place between this Department and Messrs. Lizardi and Co. and the Mexican Chargé d'Affaires at this Court, on the subject of a permission which was requested by Messrs. Lizardi and Co. to arm the Vessels in question. That permission was refused on the ground of the private character of the Vessels until they should have reached Vera Cruz,

¹F. O., Texas, Vol. 4.

²Smith to F. O., June 14 and July 1, 1842; F. O. to Admiralty, July 5 and 7, 1842; Admiralty to F. O., July 6, 8 and 12, 1842; F. O. to Murphy, May 31, 1842.

³These two vessels were intended to rehabilitate the Mexican navy. They were built in English ports, equipped, with the official sanction of Aberdeen, by a firm regularly supplying stores to the British navy, and at first it was also intended that they might be armed by similar firms, and commanded by English naval officers on leave. These last two plans were prohibited by Aberdeen after protest by Ashbel Smith, though in fact the ships were taken out by British naval officers who resigned their commissions. (Adams, *British Interests and Activities in Texas*, 83-96.) The matter occupies much space in Ashbel Smith's despatches from May to September, 1842. (Garrison, *Diplomatic Correspondence of the Republic of Texas*, III, 955-1026, in *Am. Hist. Assoc. Report*, 1908, II.) The correspondence listed in this letter is to be found as follows: (1) letters to and from Ashbel Smith, in reference just given to Garrison, III, 986 and 977; (2) letters to and from the Admiralty, in F. O., Mexico, 158, Domestic Various (Addington to Barrow, and replies); (3) letter to Murphy, in F. O., Mexico, 157, Domestic, Mr. Murphy. This last communication though dated May 31, was not sent to Murphy until July 15. Further letters on the *Montezuma* and *Guadalupe* affair will be omitted in this printing, unless they contain other matters of importance.

at which period alone they were to become *bonâ fide* the Property of the Mexican Government.

Had they been fitted out in Great Britain by the order, and on the account of the Mexican Government, that permission might legally have been granted, but, being private Property, so long as they remained in a British Port, such permission would have been contrary to Law.

I enclose herewith a Copy of the Letter by which the decision of H. M's Government on this point was conveyed to Mr. Murphy

I communicate this Letter to you, not as having any direct connexion with the Correspondence between Myself and the Texian Chargé d'Affaires referred to in the first Clause of this despatch, but merely as calculated to give you, and to enable you to give the Government of Texas, a clearer Insight into the Principles which have guided Her M's Government in this matter, as well as in that which formed the subject of that Correspondence

Our determination is to observe a strict neutrality in the present Contest between Mexico and Texas; a perfect impartiality in our Conduct towards both Parties; and a rigid adherence to law in all that regards the Proceedings of either in respect to Great Britain.

So long as the Steam Vessels in question are, in the eye of English Law, private property and unarmed, although they may be surmised, or even known, to be destined for the use of the Mexican Government, the British Government has no right to interfere with them; nor were the Vessels destined for the use of the Texian, instead of the Mexican Government, would the conduct of Great Britain be altered in any particular

You will make a frank Communication to this effect to the Government of Texas.

I have thought it expedient to enter thus fully into the subject, as I am conscious that to Persons not thoroughly acquainted with the peculiarities of British Law, some doubts might present themselves as to the Principles on which we have acted in this matter.

The above explanations are intended to dissipate these doubts, and will, I feel confident, succeed in doing so.

Aberdeen.¹

¹Despatch No. 11, Aberdeen to Elliot, July 16, 1842, omitted here, transmitted copy of despatch No. 48, Fakenham to Aberdeen, June 2, 1842, and

KENNEDY TO ABERDEEN¹

Glasgow, August 1st. 1842.

My Lord,

Having visited the West of Scotland to take leave of old and kind friends, I have been consulted by a number of the industrious artizans who, suffering from want of employment, are desirous to emigrate to Texas. The Engineers Association, which has a common fund of £40,000 and supports four hundred unemployed workmen, has some idea of purchasing Texan lands and planting these men upon them. In the present doubtful state of the relations between Mexico and Texas, I cannot recommend immediate and extensive Settlement in the latter Country. I beg to mention these facts as they may have some weight with Your Lordship in the negotiations for peace.

William Kennedy.

The Earl of Aberdeen.

ELLIOT TO ABERDEEN²No. 3.³

New Orleans, August 14th. 1842

My Lord,

I have had the honor to receive Your Lordship's despatches No. 9, 10, and 11 of 1842.

An accidental interruption of the Communication by American Steam Vessels between Cuba and New Orleans, and the failure of the Outward West India Mail of the 15th June beyond Nassau in New Providence, detained me at the Havannah till the 30th Ultimo.

the latter's reply to same despatch No. 38, Aberdeen to Pakenham, July 15, 1842, in regard to the threatened blockade of Mexican ports by the Texans.

¹F. O., Texas, Vol. 3.²F. O., Texas, Vol. 3.³No. 1, Elliot to Aberdeen, acknowledging receipt of despatches; and No. 2, reporting that he is *en route* to his post, are omitted.

Upon my arrival at this place too, on the 6th Instant, I find that the passage Vessels plying between Galveston and New Orleans have either been sent on to New York, or laid up here; from want of sufficient employment at this Season of the year. But I am informed that a Steam Vessel will sail to Texas on the 16th or 17th Instant, and I hope therefore to reach my post before the close of this week. In the mean time I have been able to collect some information which it appears to be desirable to transmit without delay.

During my detention at the Havannah Her Majesty's Ship "Victor" arrived there from Vera Cruz, having recently visited Galveston. Captain Otway informed me that the President of Texas had assured him that particular orders had already been issued to the Commander of the Texian Vessels of War not to interfere with the Ships of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company visiting the Ports of Mexico, and Captain Otway had forwarded a communication to that effect to the Vice Admiral on this Station, and to Her Majesty's Minister at Mexico.

Up to the latest period that there is information here from the Coast of Mexico, there had been no effectual blockade of the Ports involved in General Houston's Notification, and for Your Lordship's further information in that respect I beg to inclose a brief statement of the actual force and situation of the Texian Marine, which I believe may be depended upon.

I shall not fail earnestly to press the principal point of Your Lordships Instructions in the despatch No. 9, upon the Government of Texas, and judging from the Moderate and friendly tenor of the President's intercourse with Captain Otway upon that subject, and from the means of maintaining a Blockade now placed under Your Lordship's notice, it seems reasonable to conclude that they will accede to the desire and recommendation of Her Majesty's Government.

I would beg to remark that Your Lordship's despatches No. 6, 7, and 8, probably forwarded through the West India line of communication, have not yet reached me.

Charles Elliot.

The Earl of Aberdeen, K. T.

[Enclosure]

Statement of the actual force and situation of the Texian Marine.

"Austin"	Corvette.	18 guns.	Now at New Orleans.
"Wharton"	Brig.	16 guns.	Do. Do.
"San Bernardo"	Schooner	7 guns.	Cruizing.
"San Antonio"	Do.	Do.	At Galveston

A Man of War Brig, and Steam Vessel at Galveston, dismantled and unmanned.

August 14th. 1842.

KENNEDY TO ABERDEEN¹

Harrogate. August 25th. 1842.

My Lord,

By a copy of the Gazette of the 19th Inst. which has been transmitted to me from London, I have been apprized of my appointment to the Consulate of Galveston.

Permit me, My Lord, to tender to you my best acknowledgements, not merely for the recognition of my claims, as signified by the appointment, but for the kindness so grateful to my feelings, which I have experienced in approaching and communicating with your Lordship.

By advice of my Physician, I am taking the Harrogate waters, my health being considerably impaired. In ten or twelve days, I propose visiting London, and shall be prepared to leave England for Galveston about the first of October, should Your Lordship not deem it necessary to prescribe an earlier day for my departure.

William Kennedy.

The Earl of Aberdeen.

ELLIOT TO ABERDEEN²

No. 4.

Houston. August 29th. 1842.

My Lord,

An immediate opportunity to New Orleans affords me the hope of reporting to Your Lordship, by this Mail which leaves Boston

¹F. O., Texas, Vol. 3.

²F. O., Texas, Vol. 3. In this, as in many of Elliot's letters, the paragraphing is uncertain. The arrangement here followed is that which the copyist has fixed upon as best indicating Elliot's intention.

on the 15th Proximo, my arrival in Texas, on the 23d Instant. Owing to bad weather there was no communication between Galveston and this place till the 27th; and the next day being Sunday I was not presented to the President till today.

I had however in the mean time delivered Your Lordship's despatch addressed to the Secretary of State of this Republic to Mr. Terrell, the Attorney General and a Member of the Cabinet, charged during the illness of the Secretary, with the duties of his Office. I had also shewn Mr. Terrell my Commission as Consul General (of which he expressed a wish to take a Copy) and he informed me that the exequatur would be furnished immediately.

I mentioned to Mr. Terrell that being anxious to communicate with Your Lordship by the Steam Boat about to sail to New Orleans, I hoped he would excuse me for entering upon business at so early a period of our intercourse, and give me leave to call his attention to the subject of certain despatches which had reached me since my departure from England.

Mr. Terrell obligingly assured me that he would endeavor to afford me all the information I might require and would confer with the President before I saw him, in order that His Excellency might express his own views upon any points in question.

I then read to Mr. Terrell Your Lordships despatch No. 9, requesting him to observe that it adverted to Instructions of an earlier date, which had not yet reached me, so that I was without the advantage of knowing all that Your Lordship desired to convey upon the impolicy of the Blockade, supposed to exist, when that despatch was written.

But apart from all sources of objection, and even assuming that an effectual blockade of the Mexican Ports be maintained by the Texian Marine in it's actual force, still I thought the President could not fail to perceive that it would be a Measure of much more inconvenience to powers friendly to Texas, than to Mexico. That State was under heavy obligations abroad: And with very burdensome charges at home, arising chiefly from extraordinary armament alleged to be intended for the invasion of Texas, it would surely be disadvantageous to this Republic, and must be repugnant to the Dispositions of the President, to pursue a course of which the effect would be the increased difficulty of drawing

funds from this Country, to the embarrassment of foreign Creditors, much rather than the distress of the Mexican Government

Mr. Terrell did not impugn this reasoning, but remarked that particular orders had already been given to the Officers of the Texian Marine not to interfere with vessels engaged in the Packet Service of Great Britain, and he hoped therefore there would be less inconvenience than might otherwise be the case. He would not fail, however, to press all I had urged upon the President.

I next turned to Your Lordship's despatch No. 10, respecting the equipment of the Steam Ships said to be intended for the Service of the Mexican Government, but Mr. Terrell at once assured me that the President was perfectly aware of British law and practice in that particular, and was convinced that the Government of Texas might always depend upon exactly the same advantages with respect to equipment in England, or in any other respect, as had been enjoyed by the Mexican Government.

I said that it was the main object of Your Lordship's despatch to satisfy the Government of Texas of the determination of that of Her Majesty to adhere to a rigidly strict Neutrality in the contest between Mexico and their Republic, and as that feeling was so well understood, I might dismiss the subject with the expression of a sincere hope that the difficulty would be speedily and peacefully concluded.

It seemed to me that the Instruction of Your Lordship's despatch No. 11, respecting the period from which the exercise of any blockade could be admitted should most properly form the subject of a Note, whenever there was any probability that a blockade would be established, and under that impression I did not enter upon that point at present.

The President received me with great cordiality, and entered fully into the situation and views upon the subject of Mexico. He said that he had always been influenced by the sincerest disposition to adjust the difficulties with that Government upon the most moderate footing, involving the acknowledgment of the independence of the Republic; that He was heartily adverse to an aggressive warfare upon their frontier, which he was sensible with the present means of the Government, could only have the effect of destroying the prosperity, and inciting the lasting ill will of a section of the Mexican population, with which they wish to be

neighbours, and should therefore cultivate most friendly relations. He said that his own moderate views were not responded to upon the part of the people of this Republic, particularly of the Native portion of it, highly inflamed by constant incursion upon the part of the Mexicans; And he saw reason to apprehend that the continuance of these raids would drive him, contrary to his dispositions, into measures of a similar nature, but of far more extensive effect. The relations of this Government with certain Indian tribes always left it in his power to carry on a warfare of the most formidable description along the whole Eastern frontier of Mexico, but he repeated that he was adverse to the adoption of such courses, and would still hope for more satisfactory conclusions.

He now said, that if I saw no inconvenience in doing so, he should feel obliged to me to lose no time in writing to Mr. Pakenham, and requesting that Gentleman to make a communication upon his (the Presidents part) to General Saint Anna, to the effect that He was ready to consent to an armistice for any length of time, and upon any conditions, that Mr. Pakenham might consider suitable, with the view to the mature adjustment of a permanent and satisfactory arrangement between the contending parties. He would wish it to be stated that it was only from feelings of respect towards the Governments of Her Majesty, and the United States, and in reliance upon their continued friendly efforts, and He must add in some reliance too upon the moderation and good faith of General Saint Anna himself, that he had always felt himself bound to make every reasonable attempt to maintain his own forbearing policy; and he had done so at the sacrifice, or at least the temporary sacrifice of his own popularity with the greater part of his fellow Citizens.

I thanked His Excellency for this mark of his confidence, and for a communication of views which could hardly fail to be agreeable to Her Majesty's Government on account of their moderation, but I begged him to observe, that beyond the fact of the determination of Her Majesty's Government to adhere to a strict neutrality in this contest, and my own conviction of It's sincerest desire, that it should be promptly and happily adjusted, I was wholly without instructions as to the particular course which Her Majesty's Government might decide to take for the furtherance of pacification, either in point of channel, or in point of principle.

At the same time I certainly did not perceive that there could be any inpropriety or inconvenience in writing to Mr. Pakenham to the effect the President had suggested, and that Gentleman would of course be able to judge to what extent it would be in his power to meet His Excellency's wishes.

I think it may be convenient to Your Lordship to peruse the Veto Message with which the President returned a recent Act of Congress authorizing offensive War against Mexico,¹ and I have therefore taken the liberty to inclose it I would also beg to add that I shall forward a copy of this despatch to Her Majesty's Ministers at Mexico and Washington

The suddenness of this opportunity, and my recent arrival will I trust be my reason for the incompleteness of the information, I am able to transmit by this occasion; But Your Lordship may be assured that I shall not fail to press the impolicy of a Blockade upon the attention of the Government, whenever there is any prospect of its establishment, which is not the case at present.

The latest intelligence from Mexico at this place is of the 11th Instant, and at that time it was the general belief that the force about to embark was destined for Yucatan.

Charles Elliot.

The Earl of Aberdeen, K. T.
Downing Street.

ADDINGTON TO ELLIOT²

Draft.

Captn. Elliot.

No. 12.³

Foreign Office

Augt. 31st. 1842.

Sir,

I transmit to you herewith a Copy of a letter from the Admiralty⁴ relating to a claim on the Texian Govt. for supplies furnished by the Commandr. of H. M. S. "Comus" to the Officer commanding the Schooner of the Texian Govt. "San Bernard"

¹The President's veto message to the bill "authorizing offensive war against Mexico" is dated July 22nd, and was printed in the *Telegraph and Texas Register* of July 27, 1842.—EDITORS OF THE QUARTERLY.

²F. O., Texas, Vol. 4.

³For the character of No. 11 see page 323, note.

⁴Dated June 12, 1841.

amounting to £3-15-9 and inclosing in original an order on the Captain Commanding the Texian Squadron at Galveston signed by the Commander of the "San Bernard," for the payment of that Sum I have to instruct you to apply to the Texian Govt. for the amount of this Claim and transmit the same to this Dept.

H. U. A[ddington].

ELLIOT TO ADDINGTON¹

No. 5.

Galveston, September 1st. 1842.

Sir.

It was intended that the Capital of this Republic should be at Austin upon the river Colorado, but the state of public affairs led the President to assemble the last Congress at Houston, and since that time the Government has been temporarily residing there. It is not known when, or indeed whether it will return to Austin, or where the next meeting of the Legislature will be held.

In this uncertainty as to the permanent seat of Government, I trust Lord Aberdeen will sanction my residing usually at this place, which I find that Mr. Eve the American Minister is doing with the sanction of his Government, and Monsieur de Saligny my French Colleague, also lived here, after the retirement of the Government from Austin, till his return to Europe on leave of absence. There is a constant communication between Galveston and Houston by Steamer, so that the arrangement is free of inconvenience.

I mentioned to the President that the state of my health made it an object to me to live nearer to the Sea Coast than Houston, and He requested me to consult my own convenience in that respect.

Charles Elliot

H. U. Addington, Esqr.

¹F. O., Texas, Vol. 3.

ELLIOT TO ABERDEEN¹No. 1.²

Galveston, September 4th. 1842.

My Lord

I beg leave to acknowledge Your Lordship's despatch No. 1 of the 28th June last, transmitting a letter to the address of the Secretary of State of the Republic, Accrediting me as Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires in Texas.

Charles Elliot.

The Right Honorable.

The Earl of Aberdeen, K. T.

ELLIOT TO ABERDEEN³

No. 2.

Galveston, September 4th. 1842.

My Lord,

I have the honor to Acknowledge Your Lordship's despatch No. 2. of the 28th June, acquainting me, that Her Majesty has been pleased to declare that I shall receive an additional Allowance, at the rate of one pound a day, to meet the additional expences to which I shall be liable as Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires to this Republic, and farther that the Allowance is to date from the day on which I arrived at my post. It has already been reported to Your Lordship, that the date of my arrival was the 23rd Ultimo.

Charles Elliot

The Right Honorable.

The Earl of Aberdeen, K. T.

ELLIOT TO ABERDEEN⁴

No. 3.

Galveston. September 4th. 1842.

My Lord,

I have the honor to Acknowledge Your Lordship's despatch No. 3 of the 1st July, and shall not fail to observe those Instructions.

¹F. O., Texas, Vol. 4.²Elliot now begins to number despatches as from chargé d'affaires, since he is now accredited in that capacity. His previous despatches to No. 5 were written as consul general.³F. O., Texas, Vol. 4.⁴F. O., Texas, Vol. 4.

It will be my duty to Submit to Your Lordship some information and news upon the points to which my attention has been directed by an early occasion.

Charles Elliot.

The Right Honorable.

The Earl of Aberdeen K. T.

ELLIOT TO ABERDEEN¹

No. 4.

Galveston. September 4th. 1842

My Lord,

I have the honor to Acknowledge Your Lordship's despatch No. 4. of the 1st July, enclosing a Copy of the Protocol of a Conference between Your Lordship, and Mr. Ashbell Smith, at the Foreign Office, on the 28th June last, recording the exchange of the Ratifications of the three undermentioned Treaties, between Her Majesty and the Republic of Texas.

1. A Treaty of Commerce and Navigation, signed at London on the 13th November 1840.

2d. A Convention containing certain arrangements relative to the public Debt, signed at London on the 14th Novr. 1840:—and

3d. A Treaty for the Suppression of African Slave Trade, signed at London on the 16th November 1840.

I have also to Acknowledge the receipt of six Copies of each of the above Treaties, signed on the 13th and 14th November 1840. And also Copies of Protocols of the conferences held at the Foreign Office on the 19th May and 14th October 1841, between the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain and Texas, extending the time for the exchange of the Ratifications.

Charles Elliot

The Right Honorable.

The Earl of Aberdeen.

¹F. O., Texas, Vol. 4.

ELLIOT TO ADDINGTON¹*Separate.*

Galveston, September 4th. 1842.

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 7 July transmitting the copy of a letter received from the Treasury, stating the reasons for which their Lordships consider that they cannot grant me any allowance in consideration of the extraordinary expence I had incurred whilst acting as Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary in China.

Although their Lordships have not felt themselves justified in entertaining that request I trust it will be remembered that I was detained in London upon the public Service for some months after my return from China, entirely at my own charge; And I hope therefore that Lord Aberdeen will move their Lordships to pay me my full salary as Consul General in Texas from the expiration of the Month's leave of absence granted to me after my arrival in England in the Month of November last year, till I commenced to draw my allowances, that is, ten days before the date of my departure, on the 1st June last. The specific period for which I would respectfully submit this claim to their Lordship's consideration, is that between the 1st January last, and the above date, when I actually commenced to draw my allowances.

My detention was occasioned by the desire of the Lords of the Treasury, that I should remain in England pending the examination of the Accounts of a very large sum of money which I had received for the use of the Crown, and though it has not been possible for their Lordships upon principle which I do not presume to question, to make me any allowance for my Services as Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary in China, still I cannot but hope that it will be thought right to relieve me from the burdensome expence of a residence in London, attributable to motives of public convenience.

Charles Elliot.

H. U. Addington, Esqr.

¹F. O., Texas, Vol. 3.

ELLIOT TO ADDINGTON¹

Consular.

Galveston Sept 4th. 1842.

No. 7.²

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge your despatch No. 6, directing me to separate my diplomatic from my Consular despatches by affixing a distinct set of numbers to each and marking the last with the word *Consular*; and I remain. . . .

Charles Elliot.

H. U. Addington, Esqr.

ELLIOT TO ABERDEEN³

No. 8

Houston September 10th. 1842.

My Lord,

I have the honor to acknowledge Your Lordship's despatch No. 8 of June 28th last, relative to the claims on account of certain outrages, committed upon two British Merchant Vessels named the "Eliza Russell" and "Little Pen" by Vessels in the Service of the Texian Authorities

In obedience to Your Lordship's Instructions, I shall not fail to press these Claims in the strongest manner upon the serious attention of the Texian Government, as Claims which Her Majesty's Government fully expect and require should be adjusted without further delay. I find, indeed, that the sum of three thousand eight hundred and forty dollars was appropriated by a joint resolution of both Houses of Congress on the 25th January 1840, in satisfaction of the claim on account of the "Eliza Russell" and therefore the only difficulty in respect to that matter, arises from the actually exhausted condition of the Treasury.

Observing in Your Lordship's despatch before me, that Mr. Pakenham has been instructed to transmit to me certain papers relating to these claims I am unwilling to open the Subject till

¹F. O., Texas, Vol. 3.

²Nos. 5 and 6, Elliot to Aberdeen, acknowledging receipt of despatches, are omitted.

³F. O., Texas, Vol. 4.

they reach me, particularly as I collect from the Gentleman in temporary charge of the State Department here, that He believes there were some obstacles concerning the Claim for the Cargo saved from the "Little Pen" and in the absence of the Secretary of State and Attorney General, He was not able to explain to me the exact nature of the difficulties.

The papers from Mexico will probably reach me by the next arrival from New Orleans, and I propose therefore to delay my application for a few days.

Charles Elliot

The Right Honorable

The Earl of Aberdeen. K. T.

ELLIOT TO ABERDEEN¹

Galveston September 13th. 1842.

My Lord,

I have now the honor to acknowledge Your Lordship's despatch No. 7 of July 1st and the Inclosure² is a note which I addressed to this Government under those Instructions.

The President informed Mr. Eve, the Chargé d'Affaires from the United States, and Myself the day before yesterday, that it was his purpose forthwith to revoke the Notification of the 26th March, as respected Neutrals.

I should inform Your Lordship that Mr. Eve had been instructed in the same sense as myself, respecting the blockade, and had made a Communication to the same effect.

He told us He should adopt this course in deference to the views and wishes of our respective Governments; and very sensible of their friendly dispositions He would take the same occasion to express to me the hope that they would strenuously interpose to put an end to the predatorial character of the warfare, waged by the Mexicans along the Western side of the frontier of this Republic.

He would indeed suggest to us that it would have an immediate,

¹F. O., Texas, Vol. 4. The despatch is not numbered.

²Elliot to Terrell, September 10, 1842. (Garrison, *Diplomatic Correspondence of the Republic of Texas*, III, 1012; in *Am. Hist. Assoc. Report*, 1908, II.)

and most advantageous effect, (supposing it were consistent with our Situation) if we would communicate directly with the Mexican Officers commanding at the frontier posts, signifying, that the Ministers of our Countries at Mexico, were endeavouring to Mediate between the two Republics. that the President of Texas had desisted from all kinds of aggressive warfare, and requesting the Mexican Officers to pursue the same course on their Side. The President by no means deprecated regular invasion, or warfare of an honorable character.—He was prepared for that, He did hope that the Governments of friendly Nations, would use their earnest, and powerful efforts, to abolish a course of Raid and robbery, utterly at variance with the Spirit of the Age, and disgraceful to the Country by which it was pursued.

I said, that as far as I was concerned, I must at once declare that I did not feel myself warranted in writing directly to the Mexican Officers, because Her Majesty's Government was represented in Mexico, and I was sure the President would think on reflection that the proper, and I should add, the most favorable Channel, for all Communications to Mexican Authorities, or Officers, founded upon the influence of the British Government, was through that Medium. But I entertained no doubt that the nature of the warfare to which the President adverted, would be contemplated by Her Majesty's Government with feelings of great concern, and I was equally assured, that Her Majesty's Minister at Mexico would cordially endeavour to dissuade its continuance. It seemed to me too that His prospects of success in that, and still more important respects, must be strengthened by every evidence of the President's moderation.

With these convictions I would lose no time in communicating with the distinguished Gentleman in question; and beyond the general motives likely to influence him I thought I might also point to the many, and recent proofs, He had afforded of friendly feelings towards the Republic, and its Citizens, His interference with the Mexican Government for such purposes as the President wished, would be much more efficacious than my own, addressed directly to its Officers, even if I felt myself in a Situation to write to them, which I really did not. Mr. Eve adopted the same course of reasoning, and the President, admitting it's cogency, said, He

would rely upon the efforts of our respective Official Correspondents at Mexico, and was well assured of their friendly dispositions.

During my late visit to Houston, the President took occasion to Speak to me again very fully respecting His relations with the Indian tribes, and requested it might be particularly pressed upon Her Majesty's Government, that He had only been prevented from ravaging the Mexican frontier by Motives of great personal repugnance to desolating measures of retaliation. I must by this time become sensible however, of the extreme difficulty with which He has been able to adhere to this Moderate policy, and He certainly felt that it could not be maintained under any further continuance of provocation upon the part of the Mexicans. Very late intelligence from the Western frontier brought accounts of frequent incursions and robbery, by parties of Mexicans, and such proceedings would compel retaliation.

I told the President that I had not failed to report to Your Lordship, what He had stated on a former occasion upon the same Subject, and I could not but think that Her Majesty's Government would recognize, and respect the wisdom of his abstinence (in spite of popular discontent) from aggressive hostilities, hopeless of conclusive effect upon the contending party, full of hazard to themselves, and productive of nothing certain except enduring hatred on the frontier, and the organization of adventurous predatory bands, on either side of it. With no power on either part to draw this contest to a close; I could not but think that the more moderate would carry with it most of the good will of bystanding and powerful parties; The President said He had never missed that consideration, and rested much hope in its Soundness.

Charles Elliot.

The Right Honorable.

The Earl of Aberdeen, K. T.

Galveston September 17th. 1842

P. S. The deferred departure of this vessel which conveys these despatches, offered me an opportunity to transmit to Your Lordship the Copy of a Communication from this Government,¹ cover-

¹Waples to Elliot, September 14, 1842. (Garrison, *Diplomatic Correspondence of the Republic of Texas*, III, 1014, in *Am. Hist. Assoc. Report*, 1908, II.)

ing the President's proclamation revoking the Blockade of the 26th March, Copy of which is also herewith transmitted

ELLIOT TO ABERDEEN¹

No. 9.

Galveston, September 22d. 1842.

My Lord,

The accompanying Newspapers² will place Your Lordship in possession of the information which has reached this place, announcing the Capture of Saint Antonio de Bexar by a Mexican force, on the 11th Instant.

Your Lordship will observe that the Government entertains no doubt of the accuracy of that intelligence, but I am not able to offer any opinion upon the correctness of this Statement of force, in the occupation of Saint Antonio, or in any of the Misc. details reported in these papers

The effects of a severe hurricane which visited this place on the 9th Instant has delayed the departure of the vessel conveying My despatches to New Orleans, till this afternoon, and I am thus enabled to forward Your Lordship this brief report by the same occasion.

Charles Elliot

The Right Honorable.

The Earl of Aberdeen, K. T. etc.

P. S. The latest intelligence from the Court of Mexico is to the 13th Ultimo.

Charles Elliot.

ABERDEEN TO KENNEDY³

Draft.

F. O. Sept. 29th. 1842.

Mr. Wm. Kennedy.

Galveston.

No. 1.

Sir.

The Queen having been graciously pleased to appoint you to be H. M.'s, Consul at Galveston, I inclose to you herewith H. M.

¹F. O., Texas, Vol. 4.

²The *Houston Morning Star* and *Houstonian* for September 20, 1842.

³F. O., Texas, Vol. 3.

Commission to that effect, and I have to desire that you will proceed to your Post with as little delay as possible.

You will lose no time in making yourself conversant with the details of the Consular Service, and with the nature and extent of your Duties. I inclose to you for this purpose a Copy of the General Instructions to H. M. Consuls with the several annexes therein referred to; and I have to draw your particular attention to the Circular Despatches relating to those Instructions, dated the 30th Sept 1833, 1st Oct. 1836, and 1st of Augt. 1842.

You will be punctual in forwarding to this Dept., at the regular periods, the Returns required by the General Instructions; and it will be your duty to avail yourself of every favorable opportunity to collect and transmit to me any further useful or interesting information which you may be able to obtain, relating to Commerce, Navigation, and to any other Branch of Statistics.

You will receive a Salary of £500 a year to commence ten days previously to the day of your embarkation for your Post, and permission is given to you to engage in Commercial pursuits

You are, however, to understand that you will not be entitled to any Pension or Allowance upon the termination of your Services at Galveston.

Aberdeen.

ABERDEEN TO KENNEDY¹

Draft.

F. O. Sept. 29th. 1842.

Consul Kennedy.

Galveston.

No. 2.

Sir,

I think it right to draw your special attention to Paragraphs 7 and 8 of the General Instructions, and to caution you against involving yourself in difficulties with the Ruling Authorities of Texas— You will distinctly understand that your Duties are confined to the care of British Interests at the Port of Galveston and its immediate neighbourhood, and that if at any time, from want of proper redress being offered by the local Auths. of that

¹F. O., Texas, Vol. 3.

Port, or from any other cause, you may think that a Representation should be made to the Supreme Govt. of Texas, you will make *your* Representation to H. M's Chargé d'Affaires in that Country, who will take such steps thereon as he may deem expedient, in accordance with the Instructions which he may have recd. from H. M's Govt. You will at all times implicitly obey any directions which Captain Elliot may give to you for the guidance of your official conduct

Aberdeen.

ABERDEEN TO ELLIOT¹

Draft.

F. O. Octr. 3d. 1842.

Captain Elliot.

No. 13.

Sir,

I herewith transmit to you, for your information, a Copy of a letter which I have addressed to Mr. Ashbel Smith the Texian Chargé d'Affaires at this Court informing him that H. M. Govt. consider the Blockade of the Ports of Mexico announced by the President of the Republick of Texas on the 26th of March last as null and of no effect²

I also inclose a Copy of the London Gazette of the 23d inst containing a notification to that effect

ABERDEEN TO ELLIOT³

Draft.

F. O. Octr. 3d. 1842.

Captain Elliot.

No. 14.

Sir,

With reference to my despatch No. 10 of the 16th of July last relative to the two Steam Vessels fitting out in England for the use of the Mexican Govt, I herewith transmit to you, for your information, copies of a further correspondence upon this subject,

¹F. O., Texas, Vol. 4. The letter is unsigned.

²See Garrison, *Diplomatic Correspondence of the Republic of Texas*, III, 1034-1035; in *Am. Hist. Assoc. Report*, 1908, II.

³F. O., Texas, Vol. 4. The letter is unsigned.

as marked in the margin,¹ which has passed between myself and the Mexican and Texian Chargé's d'Affaires at this Court.

ABERDEEN TO ELLIOT²

Draft.

Foreign Office.

Captain Elliot.

October 3rd. 1842.

No. 15.

Sir,

Your Despatch No. 4 of the 29th of August has been received at this Office this Morning, and I lose no time in expressing to you, and desiring that you will convey to the President of Texas, the satisfaction which Her Majesty's Government have derived from the moderation of his Language and Proceedings with respect to Mexico.

You will, at the same time repeat to him the firm determination of Her Majesty's Government to employ their best exertions to put a stop to the fruitless and desultory War which still exists between Mexico and Texas, and you will not conceal from him their conviction that the continual forbearance and conciliatory conduct of the Texian Government will prove their best auxiliary towards enabling them to persuade the Government of Mexico to listen to the dictates of good sense and sound Policy, and to yield to the friendly and disinterested Advice, which counsels them to delay no longer entering into amicable Negotiations with the Republic of Texas, with a view to the formal recognition of its Independence.

ELLIOT TO BIDWELL³

Consular.

Galveston October 10th. 1842.

No. 10.

Sir.

At the request of certain of Her Majesty's Subjects resident at this place, and forming part of the Congregation of a Protestant

¹F. O. to Ashbel Smith, July 16 and September 27, 1842 (Garrison, *Diplomatic Correspondence of the Republic of Texas*, III, 1033 and 1035, in *Am. Hist. Assoc. Report*, 1908, II); Murphy to F. O., August 17 and 20, 1842; F. O. to Murphy, August 23, 1842 (two letters of this date), F. O., Mexico, 157, Domestic, Mr. Murphy; Smith to F. O., September 14 and 19, 1842 (Garrison, *Ibid.*, III, 1017 and 1020).

²F. O., Texas, Vol. 4. The letter is unsigned.

³F. O., Texas, Vol. 3.

Episcopal Church severely injured in the hurrican of the 19th Ultimo, I have taken the liberty to address the inclosed letter to the Bishop of London.¹

I learn from the Reverend Mr. Eaton that it would require between £400 and £500 to put the Church into a proper state of repair, and this place is labouring under such severe distress of all kinds, that he has no hope of collecting any funds upon the spot, particularly as the expences of it's recent erection has been heavier than had been anticipated.

Mr. Eaton is under the impression that a Chapel at Athens served by a Clergyman of the Episcopal Church of the United States, receives some assistance from Her Majesty's Government.

I have told him that so far as I can judge, the case of the Church at Galveston cannot be brought under the beneficial operation of the Act 8 George the 4th Cap. 87, but if I should be mistaken in that respect perhaps Lord Aberdeen will be pleased to recommend the Subject to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury

In any event I hope His Lordship will perceive no objection to the transmission of the accompanying letter to the Bishop of London.

Charles Elliot.

To J. Bidwell, Esqr.

ELLIOT TO ABERDEEN²

No. 11

Galveston October 17th. 1842.

My Lord,

The communications between the United States and this place have been interrupted since I had the honor to address Your Lordship on the 22d. Ultimo, but it is proposed to dispatch a small vessel in the course of the day to New Orleans, by which occasion I transmit this despatch.

The Mexican force which occupied St. Antonio de Bexar on the 11th Ultimo, retired from there on the 20th, and it is satisfactory to observe that there had been no plunder, and that all the Supplies had been liberally purchased

¹Not found.

²F. O., Texas, Vol. 4.

Part of the Texian levies came up with the retiring force on the "Medena" (about 40 miles Westward of St. Antonio) on the 23d. Ultimo, and skirmished with it, but no General action ensued. I am concerned, however, to say that a Company of Texian Volunteers consisting of about 50 men were cut up, or taken prisoners some days before in an attempt to join their advanced force; stationed too near to St. Antonio, (then in the occupation of the Mexicans) and without secure communication for the approaching small parties of reinforcements.

Nothing authentic is known here of General Woll's¹ actual situation or extent of force, but there is an impression that He has been partially reinforced, and is still to the Eastward of the Rio Grande in some strength.

I am not able to report to Your Lordship the existence of any such state of organization in this Country as the aspect of affairs so urgently requires. The Authority of the Government is not respected, there are no resources, and if there be any serious intention of invasion upon the part of Mexico (of which I have no means of judging) the prospect is unfavorable. In fact, militarily considered, the bad state of the roads seems to be the chief existing obstacle to impede the advance of such a force, as it is to be presumed would be thrown into this Country with any purpose of invasion.

But regarded in other points of view Your Lordship will probably see reason to doubt whether Mexico would derive solid advantage from the destruction of property, and the breaking up of the Establishment in Western Texas. They could hardly push their success into the Eastern part of the Country; or at all events permanently maintain themselves in that neighbourhood; and the probability and consequences of reaction from the South Western parts of the United States are serious considerations.

It is much to be wished that these difficulties may be promptly adjusted. This harassing character of warfare retards indeed, the Settlement of this Country; But it does not appear to strengthen any reasonable prospect of the re-establishment of Mexican Authority in Texas, and futile attempts in that sense

¹A French officer in the service of Mexico.

may readily induce more serious complications than any at present subsisting

It is generally rumoured that a descent is to be made upon the Island,¹ and if either of the light draught Steam boats have arrived in Mexico, it seems probable that Measure would be adopted (that is to say if invasion be intended) both to establish a basis for their own operations, and to cut off the Sea Communication with the United States.

Report, however, of every kind must be received with more than usual reserve under present circumstances in this Country, and I do not learn upon what better foundation this last statement rests than most of the others in circulation. I have thought it proper to mention it to Your Lordship because of its more general currency, but I can offer no opinion upon its probability.

Charles Elliot.

To the Right Honorable.

The Earl of Aberdeen, K. T.

ABERDEEN TO ELLIOT²

Captain Elliot

F. O. Octr. 18. 1842.

No. 16.

Sir.

With reference to Your dispatch No. 3, of the 14th of Augt. last, and the inclosure therein contained, in which you transmitted a list of the Texian Naval force, and their distribution, I have to desire that you will endeavour to add, as soon as you conveniently can to the information thus conveyed to H. M. Govt. the place at which each of the Vessels described in that list was built and equipped.

ELLIOT TO ABERDEEN³

Consular.

Galveston, October 20th. 1842.

No. 11.

My Lord,

I have the honor to submit the Copy of a letter from certain persons resident at Matagorda, Her Majesty's Subjects and others,

¹Galveston Island.

²F. O., Texas, Vol. 4. The letter is unsigned.

³F. O., Texas, Vol. 3.

requesting that a Consul may be appointed for that Port, together with a copy of my own reply

Matagorda is situated off the Mouth of the Colorado River, and will probably become the seat of the Chief trade of the Western part of Texas, when it settles; but I am concerned to report that the late incursions of the Mexicans have seriously thrown back the condition of that Country.

It may be remarked that this point lies with[in] limits, which constituted part of Texas Proper according to the demarcation of former Governments.

Charles Elliot

The Right Honorable.

The Earl of Aberdeen K. T.

WARD AND INGRAM, AND OTHERS TO ELLIOT¹

[Enclosure]

No. 1.

Matagorda Sept. 24th. 1842.

To Captn. Elliott.

Her Britannic Majesty's

Chargé des Affaires for Texas.

Sir,

The undersigned Citizens of this Place, having learned with pleasure that a treaty of Amity and Commerce has been ratified between Great Britain and this Country, and anticipating an increase of the Commercial relations between the two Countries, believe that the appointment of a British Consul for this Port, would be attended with desirable results.

Understanding that you, Sir, have been appointed Her Majesty's Chargé des Affaires for Texas, and presuming that it would be within your province to make that Appointment, [we] request you to do so; and beg leave respectfully to name as a suitable person our fellow-citizen Mr. Jas. T. Hefford, who with his family have been resident among us for the last three years.

Mr. Hefford is a native and freeman of the City of London, has been some years a member of Lloyd's Coffee House, London, and a number of years engaged in commercial transactions, both in

¹F. O., Texas, Vol. 3.

England and the United States. We have the utmost confidence in his ability and integrity and should feel obliged by his appointment.

Signed Ward & Ingram.
 A. Wadsworth & Co.
 J. R. Value & Co.
 A. Forster Axson. M. D.
 Thos. Harvey. *Not. Pub.*
 and others

Copy.

Charles Elliot.

ELLIOT TO WARD AND INGRAM, AND OTHERS¹

[Enclosure.]

No. 2.

Galveston, September² 19th 1842.

Gentlemen

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 24th Instant, and regret that it is not in my power to make a British Consular appointment for the Port of Matagorda. But I am sensible of its growing importance and it will afford me pleasure to move Her Majesty's Government to comply with your request.

Charles Elliot.

Messrs. Ward and Ingram. and other Citizens of Matagorda

Copy.

Charles Elliot

ELLIOT TO ABERDEEN³

No. 12.

Galveston October 20th. 1842

My Lord,

I have the honor to acquaint Your Lordship that Mr. John Neill born in the town of Ayr, North Britain, has applied to me at the suggestion of the President upon the behalf of his Brother, Mr. Andrew Neill,⁴ (also born in the same place) captured in

¹F. O., Texas, Vol. 3.

²October (?).

³F. O., Texas, Vol. 4.

⁴Andrew Neill was one of the Bexar prisoners. For an account of his capture and subsequent escape see narrative by himself printed in THE QUARTERLY, XIII, 313-317.

St. Antonio de Bexar on the 11th Ultimo; when that town was surprised by the Mexicans

Mr. John Neill who resides in that part of the Country informs me that he entertains no doubt the Mexican force is still to the Eastward of the Rio Grande, and thinks it may be depended upon that they will advance again. He is also of opinion that the prisoners may be detained at Matamoras[?] and under all the circumstances of the case I have considered it incumbent upon myself to make an effort to obtain his Brother's release, and have therefore addressed a letter to General Woll of which I have the honor to enclose a Copy. As it may not be consistent with the President's purposes in a Military point of view, that any communication should take place with the Mexican Forces, (if they do advance again) I have sent the original letter to General Woll to His Excellency at Washington, with a copy, and committed it to him to transmit it or not, as He may judge fit. At the request of Mr. John Neill I shall also furnish a copy to Mr. Pakenham.

Although I am satisfied that Mr. John Neill is a Subject of Her Majesty by birth, still I have felt great doubt and difficulty about this case, for it is also true that he has assumed the privileges of Texian Citizenship, as Mr. John Neill declares however, with a determination to return to Scotland. I thought it right to explain to Mr. John Neill that as his Brother had assumed the advantages and duties of Texian Citizenship, He had necessarily exposed himself to the consequences: And therefore if He had been captured with arms in his hands in any act of aggressive warfare against Mexico, or with any clear knowledge that He was resisting a regular Mexican force, there could not have been the least pretension to request his release, or any mitigation of the treatment to which He would be liable as a Prisoner of War, according to the usages of Civilized Nations

But the considerations detailed in my letter to General Woll seem to me to have left room for interference upon admissible grounds, and I hope the course I have taken will meet Your Lordship's sanction. The case is certainly dubious, but I have felt it suitable, (to the extent of my present interference) to afford Mr. Neill the benefit of that state of doubt, feeling Your Lordship would rather I should have erred on this side, than have rejected

any sustainable claim upon the behalf of this Prisoner, preferred by his Brother.

Charles Elliot

To the Right Honorable.

The Earl of Aberdeen, K. T.

ELLIOT TO WOLL¹

[Enclosure]

True Copy.

Galveston October 18th. 1842.

Charles Elliot.

Sir,

I have the honor to address You in behalf of a Subject of the Queen My Sovereign, captured with certain other Prisoners by the Mexican force under Your Command at St. Antonio de Bexar on the 11 Ulto.

The name of the prisoner is Andrew Neill, and by the declaration before me I find him described to be about 30 Years of Age, and born at a place called Lough Fergus Farm in the County of Ayr, North Britain.

I am aware that these persons, or at least most of them were captured with arms in their hands after some slight resistance, neither have I any means of shewing, or any purpose to imply that Neill himself was unarmed. But the moderation of Your late proceedings at St. Antonio, so honorable to You, strengthens me in the confidence that You will at once admit the distinction between the case of a few Individuals belonging to peaceful Classes, of life (universally absolved from the operation of the rules of War) and casually collected at St. Antonio de Bexar, in discharge of their Civil functions, and that of detachments of troops, or persons assembled with hostile intention against Your Government.

The exposure of that part of the Country to invasion unauthorized by Your Government, and it's liability to sudden attack by Indians, are considerations which will not be lost upon You in explanation of an act of resistance to a complete surprize, by the division under Your Command, effected, it should be observed before the day light had well broken.

¹F. O., Texas, Vol. 4.

You are probably disposed to avail Yourself of any reasonable plea for the release of all these parties; And I can hardly doubt that upon reconsideration you will admit the truth and cogency of their representation that they were ignorant of the nature and extent of force to which they were opposed, and were doing no more than protecting themselves, against what might have been an attack of Indians, or of other disorderly and dangerous persons, coming with no Warrant from constituted Authority, and with no other object than that of plunder.

Mr. Neill was at St. Antonio on his peaceful and lawful occasion. Being there He was in a situation, which He was amply justified in expecting attack from quarters that too frequently leave to successful resistance the single chance for life. He could know nothing of the approach of the force under Your Command, and through his assumption of arms on this occasion has warranted his Capture as a Prisoner of War; I must declare that it does not seem to me to justify his detention after this representation shall reach Your hand. Founding the claim therefore, upon these premises, and relying upon the amicable disposition of Your Government towards that of Her Majesty, I have to request that Mr. Neill may be released.

I have of course no authority to make any formal reclamation in behalf of the other Individuals taken upon the same occasion, and to whose case similar reasoning may be applied, but appealing to Your generosity and Military Spirit I hope to be excused for very earnestly recommending the release of all the persons taken at St. Antonio.

It would be an act of consideration worthy of the magnanimity of Your Government, and congenial with Your own character to accept their reasonable declaration that they had no purpose to resist a respectable portion of a regular force.

Charles Elliot.

Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires
to the Republic of Texas.

To His Excellency Don Andrew [Adrian] Woll. etc.

The Officer in Command of the Mexican Force in Advance.

KENNEDY TO ABERDEEN¹

33 Craven Street, Strand.

October 24th. 1842.

My Lord,

Being anxious to avoid as much as possible trespassing upon Your Lordship's time with matters of a personal character, I have consulted Mr. Bidwell as to the existence of any precedent for a British Consul colonizing lands in a foreign Country, the seat of his public duties.

Mr. Bidwell's experience having failed to supply a precedent, I beg to submit to Your Lordship the course I propose to adopt, under the presumption that it is free from objection.

The conditional grant of land, which, under a general law of concession and contract, I received, in common with other Europeans, from Texas, would be wholly valueless without the application of a much larger Capital than I can command. I must, therefore, have associated capitalists with me in the undertaking or have suffered the contract, which is limited as to time, to expire. Instead of being associated with capitalists disposed to embark in the enterprize, I now propose to transfer to them my interest in the Contract, and confine myself to acting in the capacity of agent, which I presume to be in accordance with the Consular privilege to trade.

William Kennedy

The Right Honorable

The Earl of Aberdeen. K. T.

KENNEDY TO ABERDEEN²

33 Craven Street, Strand

London, October 27th. 1842.

My Lord,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Her Majesty's Commission appointing me to be Her Majesty's Consul at Galveston, and Your Lordship's despatches (No. 1, 2, 3) together

¹F. O., Texas, Vol. 3.

²F. O., Texas, Vol. 3.

with Consular Instructions and documents appertaining to the office.

My proper appreciation of the trust with which I have been honored, will, I am sensible, be best evinced by a faithful, diligent, and discreet discharge of the duties connected with it. And in this particular I humbly hope I shall not be found wanting.

On Monday the 31st Inst. I shall leave London, for the purpose of proceeding to Liverpool, and there embarking for my post, with as little delay as possible

In accordance with paragraph No. 11, of the Consul Instructions for Her Majesty's Consuls, I beg to enclose impressions in duplicate of my seal of office and my official Signature annexed.

William Kennedy

The Earl of Aberdeen, K. T.

ELLIOT TO ABERDEEN¹

No. 13.

Galveston, November 2nd. 1842

My Lord,

Since I had the honor to address Your Lordship on the 20th Ultimo I have received a Communication from this Government, herewith transmitted, with my own reply.²

If I may presume to offer an opinion upon the general subject of this country, thus brought under Your Lordship's notice, I should say that it's present critical condition arises from departure from that steady abstinence from aggressive War on Mexico, either by land or sea, which has always been General Houston's policy, in or out of place; I cannot say power, for this Government is without force or means.

The creation of a Texian Marine, at an enormous expense, and which there are no longer any funds to maintain, was unnecessary, for Mexico had no Military Marine to molest this country, and no merchant ships to capture. The proceedings, therefore, of the Texian Cruisers were calculated only to trouble and provoke

¹F. O., Texas, Vol. 4.

²The reply is Elliot to Terrell, October 31, 1842, on the revocation of the blockade, and refers to a letter from Terrell, dated October 16, and received October 30. (Garrison, *Diplomatic Correspondence of the Republic of Texas*, III, 1043; in *Am. Hist. Assoc. Report*, 1908, II.)

friendly neutrals, to incite the foreign merchants, connected with the trade of Mexico, and to stimulate the supineness of the Government of that country, by futile manifestations before their Ports.

The result has been the creation of the present Mexican Marine.

The consequences of the Santa Fé expedition undertaken without knowledge of the country, without military resources, and without discipline, were the surrender of the whole party on the threshold of the Mexican territory, the incitement of the frontier population, ill affected to their own Government, and not ill neighbours to the Texians, retaliatory incursions on the part of the Mexican Government, the strengthening of the confidence of that Government and its troops in their capacity to contend with this people, the organization of a corps armed with the same description of weapon, (the rifle) and finally, something little short of the breaking up of the whole Western Country of Texas.

When the Character of the Mexican Government and people is considered it seems reasonable to think that adherence to wiser courses, would have long since made it a matter of indifference to Texas whether Mexico acknowledged its independence or not, for a profitable and growing forced trade with the North Eastern Provinces of Mexico was inevitable, (rapidly populating, and strengthening the western part of Texas) and which the Mexican Government could not have disturbed, without the greatest danger of intestine commotion; and could only have regulated by a treaty of peace, and moderate fiscal arrangements. It is a remarkable fact in support of this view, and otherwise of much interest, that the Mexican force which surprised St. Antonio in the course of last September, was accompanied by traders who bought up all the Merchandize deposited there, at very handsome prices, and carried it back under the protection of the retiring force.

Nothing certain is known here of General Woll's situation (a circumstance which will enable Your Lordship to judge of the condition of this country in respect to Military vigilance, and information,) but it is generally believed that he is on the "Nueces" and that he has been reinforced, In the meantime considerable numbers of Texian Volunteers, perhaps about 1000, have assembled at St. Antonio de Bexar and in the neighbourhood, and it is declared with the determination to cross the Rio

Grande, and ravage that line of frontier. It is to be hoped that no measure of that kind will be attempted, for with very high impressions of the gallantry of these levies, it must be added that they are without discipline and I am afraid there can be little doubt that the result would be signally disastrous.

Your Lordship will I believe be disposed to think that there is soundness in the opinion that the strength of this people lies entirely in adherence to a system of defensive War. By drawing the Mexicans into the heart of the Country, driving their own cattle before them as they retired, destroying the crops, and never suffering themselves to be betrayed into measures of serious attack, till they had the full advantage of an exhausted enemy, remote from their own resources, some moment of tempestuous weather, and a wooded position from which they could use their rifles without danger of dislodgement by a regular force, (and the banks of the numerous streams abound in such cover) it appears to be as certain as any event in war can be thought to be, that the Mexicans would suffer another heavy discomfiture. With perfect knowledge of the country on the part of the Texians, it is hard to believe that an opposing force, taken at proper advantage, would succeed in getting out of it

Movements upon these principles, enabled General Houston to achieve the successes of 1836 when the country was much weaker than it is at present, and with leading of equal skill, and equal address in the management of the particular force which this country can assemble the like results might be looked for again. Recent events have afforded no evidence of such qualities.

Arrivals from New Orleans to the 26th Ultimo bring intelligence from Campeché to the 14th Ultimo at which date there was a considerable Mexican force concentrated there. The next arrivals will probably bring intelligence of some decisive event in that quarter, and the nature of that event will as probably determine the course of the rulers of Mexico with regard to this country.

Sudden and violent revulsions of authority are so usual in Mexico, and there is so much difficulty on the part of such a Government in commanding the efficient working of the mixed armament with which they are now operating, that it is possible large

allowances should be made for the chances of trammel or difficulty in some of these particulars

Other motives and impulses of which Your Lordship must be fully informed are also acting upon the Mexican Government, and Your Lordship will of course be able to judge of the purposes of that Government much better than I can have any means of doing. But speaking as a Seaman, and with a long experience in these seas, I may add that at this season of the year, and during the winter months, there would be great risk of disaster from bad weather and dangerous navigation, particularly on the Campeché Bank, to a Squadron of Mexican transports and vessels of War.

Before I conclude this despatch I think it right to acquaint Your Lordship that the heavy rains and tempestuous weather of the last month and September have seriously damaged the crops of this year, and upon the whole this Country is struggling through a state of great difficulty of all kinds.

Charles Elliot

The Right Honorable.

The Earl of Aberdeen, K. T.

P. S.

The last despatch I have had the honor to receive from Your Lordship in this Series is No. 11 of July 16th and I am afraid that some communications from the department must have been lost in the Steam boat "Merchant" cast away in the early part of last month on the passage from New Orleans to this place.

Charles Elliot.